



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

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ASMFC Board Approves Addendum IX to the Scup FMP *Addendum Allows for Increases in Recreational Harvest from Rhode Island through New York*

Arlington, VA – The Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board yesterday approved Addendum IX to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Specifically, Addendum IX provides the states with a mechanism for effectively managing their 2003 recreational scup fisheries on a state-specific basis. A prior addendum addressed the 2002 recreational fishery, establishing a combination of state-specific and regional regulations. This document expired at the end of 2002, necessitating the development of a new mechanism for managing the recreational scup fishery in 2003.

Due to the recent increase in scup stocks, states from Rhode Island through New York will be permitted to develop state-specific management measures that achieve a maximum 38.8 percent increase relative to 2002 landings. As in 2002, these states will have the option of implementing mode-specific regulations for their recreational fisheries (i.e., party/charter boat versus private boat/shore-based angler) upon review and approval by the Technical Committee and Board. Mode-specific data used in state proposals must have a maximum percent standard error of 20 percent. Based on 2003 state shares, Massachusetts is permitted a 22 percent landings increase, however, it has chosen to maintain its 2002 regulations for the 2003 season.

Recreational measures were approved for New Jersey through North Carolina during the annual specification-setting meeting in December. In the case of New Jersey, the Board approved a 10-inch minimum size, 50 fish bag limit and a season of July 1 – December 31. Due to the very low landings in the southern range of the species, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina will be permitted to maintain a 10-inch minimum size, 50 fish bag limit and open season.

While scup are managed jointly by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, this recent action applies to state waters only. Copies of the Addendum will be available by mid-March and can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202)289-6400, or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org. For more information, please contact Michael Lewis, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or <mlewis@asmfc.org>.

NOTE TO PRESS: If you would like to receive the Commission's press releases via email, please contact Tina Berger, Public Affairs & Resource Specialist, at tberger@asmfc.org or fax to (202) 289-6051.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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